JN 9-10

questioned typewriting appearing on Q1 and Q2 was not prepared with the typewriters used in preparing K1 through K3.

By communication dated October 7, 1964, Mr. H. M. RAY, United States Attorney, Northern District of Mississippi, advised that after reviewing the investigative reports in this matter it was his opinion that no further investigation is necessary and that the matter should be closed. Mr. RAY advised that he would not authorize prosecution of the unknown subject even though his identity would be determined.

For more information on PDF Compression and OCR go to our website

CONFIDENTIAL

AIRTEL 6/29/56

TO: DIRECTOR

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-New) b7C

MELVIN (ph) BELLI; (CO: SAN FRANCISCO)

[redacted]

C

WFO indices contain no additional information.

SF Div should conduct appropriate investigation in an attempt to further identify the subjs, handling per Section [illegible], Manual of Instructions. Upon possibly identifying the subjs, blank memos should be furnished to the Bu suitable for dissemination. WFO should be furnished copies of any investigative effort for info.

RUC.

LAUGHLIN

(3) Bureau
2-San Francisco
2-WFO
[redacted] b1

CBT:lcr
(7)

AIRTEL

Mr. Belmont

JUL 13 1956

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

APPROVED BY ROUTING SLIP ON ATTACHED AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES

SE 105-

EX-120

6-17-80 SP2 TAP/Ebm

6-29-90

Declassified by [illegible]

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Airtel

Transmit the following ~~XXXXXXX~~ message to: July 5, 1956

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM : SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)
SUBJECT: CHANGED
MELVIN M. BELLI; [redacted] 67C
[redacted] 61
RE WFO airtel to Bureau, 6/29/56, entitled "MELVIN (PH) BELLI; [redacted] 67C

MELVIN M. BELLI, well known San Francisco attorney with offices at 240 Stockton Street, member of bar since 1933. Married third wife, JOEY TURNER, at San Francisco, 5/3/56.

On 3/9/51, name appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar.

"Daily People's World" (DPW) newspaper, 9/22/49, contains names of number of persons and name MERVIN BELLI, protesting prosecution of 12 Communist leaders.

DPW newspaper, 11/6/41, contains names of number of persons and name MELVIN M. BELLI sending greetings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7th, the Russians' Independence Day. Blank memo will be submitted.

WHELAN

3 Bureau (AM REG.)
1 WFO (Info.) (AM REG.)
1 San Francisco
SJE:fdl
(5)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-17-80 BY SP2 [illegible]

RECORDED - 88

Mr. Belmont

105-4[illegible]

SE 4

EX-109

JUL 16 1956

ESP SPC

Special Agent in Charge

Sent _____ M Per _____

Mr. Belmont
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mason
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Nease
Mr. Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (CONFIDENTIAL) DATE: 7/17/86

FROM: SAC, WFO (105-18134)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
[redacted] b1
(OO:SF)

b1 [redacted] C

Above is being furnished for information of Bureau and San Francisco.

(2) Bureau
1-San Francisco (105-4626) (info) (RM)
1-WFO
JON:WJM
(4)

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP ON 6-26-87 gmt

6-17-80
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2T Ap/Ebm
REASON - GDS II, 1.2 2,3
DATE OF REVIEW 9-17-90

RECORDED - 14 105-41764
INDEXED - 14
24 JUL 18 1986

EX-120

CONFIDENTIAL

21 JUL 30 1986

Form No. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: July 10, 1956

FROM SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI; [redacted] 57C

Re WFO airtel to Bureau, 6/29/56 and San Francisco airtel to Bureau, 7/5/56.

Enclosed herewith is a blank memorandum as requested by referenced airtel.

No recommendation is being made to interview MELVIN M. BELLI or his wife when they return from their trip to the USSR.

Encls. 4
2 Bureau (REG.)
1 WFO (Encl. 1) (REG.)
1 San Francisco
SJE:fdl
(4)

4 ENCLOSURE

RECORDED - 47

INDEXED - 47

EX-104

SE 47

DATE FORW 7-25-56
HOW FORW Hand
BY O'Brien

71 JUL 26 1956

20 JUL 17 1956

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-17-80 BY SP2 TAP/EMM SP SEQ

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
San Francisco, California

IN REPLY, PLEASE REFER TO
FILE NO.

July 10, 1956

MELVIN M. BELLI,
[redacted]

[redacted]

The September, 1955 San Francisco Telephone Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, Attorney, with offices at 240 Stockton Street, telephone GA 1-0316, residing at 1228 Montgomery Street, telephone YU 2-2146.

The 1955-1956 San Francisco City Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, occupation lawyer, with offices on the Tenth Floor of 240 Stockton Street, and with a home address of 1228 Montgomery Street, Apartment 8.

The 1956 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a MELVIN M. BELLI, born 1907, admitted to the bar in 1933. The directory lists that he is a member of the American Bar Association, attended the University of California, receiving a BA and LL.B. Degree, and having offices at 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper issue of July 3, 1956

6-17-80
CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/LCM
REASON FOR EXT. 1.2 1,2,3
DATE OF REVIEW 7-10-90

105-49865-4

ENCLOSURE

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND FIELD OFFICES ADVISED BY ROUTING SLIP ON 2-26-80

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CONFIDENTIAL

Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney MELVIN BELLI, counsel for Japan Air Lines and recently married, would leave during the week of July 3, 1956 for Europe via Scandinavian Air Lines.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper issue of May 4, 1956 revealed MELVIN BELLI, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former air line hostess, JOEY TURNER, in San Francisco. MELVIN BELLI, according to the article, formerly was married to BETTY GALLANTINE and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married TONI NICHOLS, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

On March 9, 1951, the name of MELVIN BELLI, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P.O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney VINCENT HALLINAN, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to ALBEN BARKLEY during the vice president's visit here.....

"The group wrote BARKLEY that they wanted to see him 'for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions.'

"'We refer particularly to the prosecution of the Communist leaders in New York; and consider the action against them the sad reflection upon the level to which our American concepts of free speech have declined.

CONFIDENTIAL

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"'We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures under which an existing system can employ the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism or change.'

"Members of the group which also sent a strongly worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J. HOWARD MC GRATH, included in addition to HALLINAN: MERVIN BELLI, attorney;....."

The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of November 6, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitled: "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

"San Francisco, Nov. 5

"Prominent Northern Californians are sending greetings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the Russians' Independence Day, in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian-American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat Hitler Fascism.

"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message:

"'We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

"'On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism.'"

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CONFIDENTIAL

Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in some instances, were: ".....MELVIN M. BELLI, attorney....."

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

CONFIDENTIAL

For more information on PDF Compression and OCR go to our website

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Nichols

DATE: December 14, 1956

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: [redacted] CONFIDENTIAL

MELVIN BELLI
ATTORNEY, SAN FRANCISCO,
CALIFORNIA

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
EXCEPT WHERE SHOWN
OTHERWISE

PURPOSE:

To set forth derogatory information concerning captioned individuals in response to your request.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2 TAP/Lmm
REASON-FCIM II 1.2.4.2.2
DATE OF REVIEW 12-14-90

DETAILS

[redacted]

There are frequent references in Bufiles to Belli, in his capacity as an attorney for various clients. Belli was the attorney in 1947 for complainants against the Government in connection with injuries arising out of the great explosion on July 17, 1944, at the United States Naval Ammunition Depot, Port Chicago, California. When Special Agents interviewed one of his clients, this client voluntarily mentioned that Belli had asked that he be allowed to file this suit for her and that she had signed a contract that Belli would receive about 30 per cent of any money paid by the Government to her. Later Belli wrote the Department and the Special Agent in Charge, San Francisco, accusing Special Agents of harassing his clients and making insulting and unethical interrogations concerning his practices. SAC Kimball personally contacted Belli and resolved this matter. Belli admitted he was concerned that the FBI might be investigating him since he was at that time being investigated by a private investigator employed by the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company in connection with

ENCLOSURE #1

cc - Mr. Nichols, with copy of enclosure
Enclosure

RECORDED - 44
INDEXED - 44

17 DEC 26 1956

61 JAN 8 1957 CONFIDENTIAL

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a $100,000 suit which a client of his had filed against that company. The insurance company refused to settle and reported to the California Bar Association that Belli was unethical in soliciting his clients and further that he had been unethical in obtaining signatures to a fee contract. (62-82613-24)

[redacted]

The San Francisco Examiner" of October 9, 1956, reflects that Belli was the attorney for the children of an individual who had deeded a ranch worth $200,000 to an attorney. The children were alleging that this gift was a hidden donation to the Communist Party and that undue influence had been brought to bear upon their father. (100-388561-A)

[redacted]

Attached is a blank memorandum containing public source material regarding Belli.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

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December 14, 1956

Re: Melvin Belli
Attorney
San Francisco, California

The September, 1956, San Francisco telephone directory listed Melvin M. Belli, attorney, with offices at 240 Stockton Street, telephone GA-1-0316, and residence at 1228 Montgomery Street, telephone YU-2-2146.

The 1955-1956 San Francisco city directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, occupation lawyer, with offices on the Tenth Floor of 240 Stockton Street, and with a home address of 1228 Montgomery Street, Apartment

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"San Francisco, Nov. 5

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"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message:

"'We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mason
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Tele. Room
Holloman
Sandy

HEH:jh
(6)

ENCLOSURE

CONTINUED

DATE 6-10-98 BY SP1AP/SAM

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"'On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism.'"

Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in some instances, were: ".....MELVIN M. BELLI, attorney....."

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (105-49865-4)

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of March 19, 1947 under the caption "Defendants Linked In Night Club Suit" reports the following information:

"Attorney Melvin Belli and his wife were joined as defendants yesterday in a suit for recision of a contract for the purchase of Fong's Iroquois Village, Redwood City night spot.

"The action was filed in San Mateo County Superior Court by S. J. De Sanders and Robert Dupret, owners of a Redwood City cigar store. Their complaint asserted they entered into the agreement last December and attempted to withdraw several days later but that Belli refused to return a $2,000 down payment." (62-82613-18)

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney VINCENT HALLINAN, protested the prosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to ALBEN BARKLEY during the vice president's visit here.....

"The group wrote BARKLEY that they wanted to see him 'for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions.

"We refer particularly to the prosecution of

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Communist leaders in New York, and consider the action against them the sad reflection upon the level to which our American concepts of free speech have declined.

"'We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures under which an existing system can employ the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism or change.'

"Members of the group which also sent a strongly worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J. HOWARD MC GRATH, included in addition to HALLINAN, MERVIN BELLI, attorney;.....

The "Daily People's World" is a West Coast communist newspaper.

The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P. O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, issue of May 4, 1956, revealed Melvin Belli, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former airline hostess, Joey Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli, according to the article, formerly was married to Betty Ballantine and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married Toni Nichols, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955.

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, issue of July 3, 1956, Section II, page 1, column 1, reveals Attorney Melvin Belli, counsel for Japan Air Lines and recently married, would leave during the week of July 3, 1956, for Europe via Scandinavian Air Lines. (105-49865-4)

The Grievance Committee of the California Bar Association may have additional information concerning Belli.

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. Tolson

DATE: December 17, 1956

FROM : L. B. Nichols

SUBJECT:

Tolson
Nichols
Boardman
Belmont
Mohr
Parsons
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
Tease
Winterrowd
Tele. Room
Holloman
Gandy

Last winter, Fulton Lewis, Jr., confused Pearl Wanamaker, State Director of Education, with a communist. He made a prompt correction and thought that the matter was all over. On Friday he told me that suit had been filed against him in Yakima, Washington, by an attorney named Peter Tonkoff and that suits will also be filed in 50 other cities through Melvin Belli, who is connected with the National Association of Compensation Attorneys.

Lewis stated that Belli had written a book "Ready for Plaintiff" published by Henry Holt & Company; that the suit has no merit and it looks like this is a sharp trick on the part of lawyers to really ruin him as the expense and harrassment of defending 50 suits will be considerable. He is naturally trying to find out something about the attorneys. I told him that I didn't know whether we had anything, but would check. A summary is enclosed.

LBN:hpf
(4)
Enclosure
cc - Mr. Boardman
Mr. Belmont

105-49865-5

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-17-80 BY SP2TAP/Ecm

RECORDED-20 105-49865-6

17 DEC 31 1956

61 JAN 4 1957

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

~~SECRET~~

DATE: September 1, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Re my memo dated 8-28-59.

The Director has instructed that our San Francisco Office keep alert for any violation of law by Belli in view of his questionable record. Attached is a brief letter to San Francisco with appropriate instructions.

CONSULTING with CIA

[redacted]

RECOMMENDATION:

That the attached letter of instructions be sent to the San Francisco Office.

Enclosure sent 9-1-59

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2 TAP/EBM
REASON-FCIM II, 1-2.4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 9-1-90

1 - Mr. Belmont

HEH:sfc
(6)

REC-5 105-47[illegible]

EX-111 23 SEP 3 1959

CRIME

~~SECRET~~

STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. DeLoach

~~SECRET~~ DATE: August 28, 1959

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

BACKGROUND: The attached newspaper clipping from "The New York Times" dated August 25, 1959, reflects that Attorney Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial lawyer, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the current American Bar Association convention. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'Brien" expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. The Director noted "What do we know re Belli?"

Summary

The current Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. Belli, born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933. He is associated with the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California.

SYNOPSIS:

[redacted]

RECOMMENDATION: b1 Consulting with CIA

None. For information.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/Lpm
REASON FOR FXE. 1.1.2 2 3
DATE OF REVIEW 8-28-96

ENCLOSURE

~~SECRET~~ We should disavow any interest in this matter. Any publicity for any matter handled by Belli favorable or unfavorable is undesirable.

DETAILS: The "Daily People's World," communist newspaper, of November 6, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4 contained an article entitled "Bay Area

Enclosure

SEP 4 1959

RWK:dj d/mbb

CRIME

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SECRET

Jones to DeLoach Memo
Re: Melvin M. Belli

Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7." This article reflects that a group of prominent Californians, including Belli, sent greetings to the Soviet Union in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany. This message was sent by the Russian-American Society, Inc., which has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450. (105-49865-4)

In 1947, Belli was the attorney for complainants against the Government in connection with injuries arising out of the great explosions on July 17, 194[illegible]. In connection with these suits, Belli accused Special Agents of the FBI of harassing his clients and making insulting and unethical interrogations concerning his practices. He later admitted that he was concerned that the FBI might be investigating him since he was being investigated by an insurance company in connection with a $100,000 suit which a client of his had filed against that company. The insurance company reported him to the California Bar Association for his alleged unethical practices. (62-82613-24)

The "Daily People's World" newspaper, issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial," which reflects that a group of San Franciscans protested the prosecution of twelve communist leaders to Alben Barkley. The group included Belli.

consulting with CIA

[redacted]

Why was this checked out? b7C

On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P. O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, Los Angeles 28, which appealed to members of the bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB1666, which would impose upon every member of the

SECRET

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California Bar and every candidate for admission the requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "San Francisco Examiner" of October 9, 1956, reflects that Belli was the attorney for the children of an individual who had deeded a ranch worth $200,000 to an attorney. The children were alleging that this gift was a hidden donation to the Communist Party and that undue influence had been brought to bear upon their father. (100-388561-A)

Belli was reported to be leaving his wife on July 3, 1956, for Europe [redacted] 105-49865-4)

The Los Angeles Office advised in April, 1959, that Mickey Cohen was believed to have hired Belli as attorney for stripteaser Candy Barr. (63-4296-26-361)

[redacted] advised that he was associated with Belli. [redacted]

In August, 1949, Belli, described by a Los Angeles newspaper as "King of Torts," was described as the attorney for Mickey Cohen in a suit charging Cohen with assault upon Chief Federal Narcotic Agent Howard Chappell. (92-3156-A)

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60994

SAC, San Francisco

September 1, 1959

Director, FBI

REC-91 105-49865-8

MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

As you may be aware, Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial attorney, introduced west coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics during the American Bar Association convention recently concluded in Miami Beach, Florida. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'Brien," an expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. Belli and Cohen have regarded this incident as humorous, but, of course, this type of humor is in extremely poor taste.

Belli has an extremely questionable record, and your office should be alert for any violation of law by Belli coming to your attention.

1 - Mr. Belmont

NOTE: See Jones to DeLoach memo dated 9-1-59 captioned as above.

HEH:sfd
(7)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED DATE 6-17-80 BY SP1 TAP/EPM

MAILED 19
SEP - 1 1959
COMM-FBI

UNRECORDED COPY FILED IN

FBI

SEP 1 1959

MAIL ROOM TELETYPE UNIT

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50995

Mobster's 'Lecture' Embarrasses Bar

Special to The New York Times.

MIAMI BEACH, Aug. 24—Leaders of the American Bar Association were fuming today over an appearance by Mickey Cohen, West Coast mobster, at a seminar on legal tactics.

Cohen turned up at the seminar yesterday. He was introduced as "Professor O'Brien," an expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases.

Just how and why he got there was a matter of confusion for hours. Things did not get any simpler when local detectives questioned him about a murder in Chicago.

As to the murder, Cohen denied all. The victim was Fred Evans, a one-time gangster who was shot in Chicago last Saturday while Cohen was visiting that city.

"They should let somebody know when they are going to kill somebody," Cohen told reporters after his talk with the detectives.

As for the seminar that turned out to have no official connection with the American Bar Association, which is holding its annual convention here, Cohen came here at the invitation of Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial lawyer.

For the last ten years, Mr. Belli has conducted a private one-day seminar on trial tactics at the time and place of the bar association's annual meeting or that of the National Association of Claimants' Compensation Attorneys.

Interesting Guests

Mr. Belli explained today that he usually produced "odd and interesting guests" at his seminars. This year's choice was Cohen, whom Mr. Belli recently defended in Los Angeles against a charge of assaulting a policeman. After one mistrial Cohen pleaded guilty and was fined $200.

It was supposed to be a secret that the mystery guest would be Cohen, but both the newspapers and the police knew in advance.

"That's nothing unusual," Cohen said. "They know I'm coming a lot of times before I know I'm going."

Anyway, Cohen flew into town and told everyone that he was going to the Fontainebleau Hotel to lecture the Bar Association about tax evasion. But instead the [illegible] and showed [illegible]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 6-17-80 BY SP2 [illegible]

105-41869



Associated Press Wirephoto

UNEXPECTED GUEST: Mickey Cohen addresses lawyers in Miami Beach during seminar on legal tactics. Cohen was invited to speak by Melvin M. Belli, right.

paid nothing, not even travel expenses. He said Cohen had made the trip as a favor in return for Mr. Belli's handling the assault case without fee.

Some 600 lawyers paid $10 each to attend the seminar. Mr. Belli said most of this would go to the Belli Foundation, which he said prepared material [illegible] legal education.

have been carried away when he brought the A. B. A. into the picture.

"Mick likes to be interviewed," Mr. Belli told a reporter today. "When he gets going, he just keeps going."

[illegible] of St. Julien of N. [illegible] president of the Conservation Attorneys Association for the [illegible] last year, said his organization was outraged at having been in-

[illegible] lone[illegible] ident of the [illegible] was a [illegible] not know[illegible] ed. "It [illegible] can't ap[illegible] ect," Mr. Be[illegible] declared, "th[illegible] no sense of humor. [illegible]

Cohen became [illegible] about [illegible] years ago. S[illegible] was sh[illegible] in [illegible] who h[illegible] home was nom[illegible] sumably [illegible] criminal. He now [illegible] operates [illegible] parlor [illegible] Los An[illegible]

Co[illegible] Sayers [illegible]

MIAM[illegible] Be[illegible]

UPI[illegible] [illegible]

aware his joke today.

"Yeah[illegible] gave [illegible] port advice." [illegible] who once serve[illegible] prison terms [illegible] evasion.

He said he had [illegible] because "[illegible] dri[illegible] vice I gave out last [illegible]

"This obviously [illegible] to use the A. B. A. [illegible] promotion," a [illegible] the bar association [illegible]

"I wish now I [illegible] never even [illegible] quote me on that," he said. "Never again."

Introduced by [illegible] seminar as "Professor [illegible] Cohen climbed [illegible] stool behind the [illegible] tern. He was [illegible] wrinkle-proof [illegible]

"I probably [illegible] room [illegible] you give [illegible] introduction."

The twenty [illegible] were [illegible]

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Malone

SECRET

DATE: 3/9/60

FROM : H. L. Edwards

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

By memorandum dated 3/9/60 Edwards to Mr. Malone, I set forth information re the American Bar Association's (ABA) [redacted] plans to oust Belli from the ABA because of his many cheap unethical practices. A review of Bufiles was made as a result of an article in "The New York Times" d 8-25-59 which indicated that Attorney Melvin M. Belli, a San Francisco trial la er, introduced West Coast mobster Mickey Cohen at a seminar on legal tactics duri the annual ABA meeting at Miami Beach. Cohen was introduced as "Professor O'B en," expert on tax evasion and other criminal cases. Of course, Belli's seminar had o connection with the ABA and the ABA protested his cheap trick which led the pub c to think otherwise. The Director noted, "What do we know re Belli?"

The current Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists a Melvin M. elli, born 1907, admitted to the Bar 1933. He is associated with the law firm of Bel Ashe and Gerry, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California.

[redacted]

Consulting with CIA

Enclosure

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)
1 - Mr. Belmont (sent direct)
105-49865
KWW:jss (5)

REC-8 105-49865-9

6-17-80 EX-130

12 MAR 17 1960

SECRET

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Memorandum to Mr. Mohr
Re: Melvin M. Belli
105-49865

SECRET

The San Francisco Office was alerted by letter dated 9-1-59 in accordance with the Director's instructions but to date they have not reported any additional information. In view of the contemplated action of the ABA it is felt that the San Francisco Office should review its files and public source material for any additional information re Belli. Upon receipt of same, further consideration will be given and appropriate recommendations will be made.

RECOMMENDATION: That the attached letter of instructions be sent to the San Francisco Office.

HLE

SEC

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SAC, San Francisco 3/14/60

REC-8 105-41865-9

EX-130 Director, FBI

MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Rebulet 9/1/59.

Re [redacted] dealing with CIA

[redacted]

You are instructed to review your files and other pertinent public source material re above-captioned individual and submit any available data to Bureau by 3/21/60. Insure that any information furnished is precisely identified as public source or otherwise, and where it is public source, furnish complete citation.

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2TAP/CS
REASON FOR EXT. 1-4.2
DATE OF REVIEW 3-14-80

1 - Mr. DeLoach (sent direct)
1 - Mr. Belmont (sent direct)

Based on Malone to Mr. Mohr memo, 3/7/60 Re: Melvin M. Belli, Attorney, San Francisco, California. KWW:jss.

KWW:jss

MAILED 4
MAR 14 1960
COMM-FBI

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE SHOWN

APPROPRIATE AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY ROUTINGS SLIP

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
Conrad
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

TELETYPE UNIT

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STANDARD FORM NO. 64

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mason	
Mr. McGuire	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tamm	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: 3/18/60

FROM : SAC, San Francisco (105-4626)

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

ReBulet 3/14/60.

Enclosed, herewith, are the original and three copies of blind memorandum re BELLI.

As set forth in letter to the Bureau from San Francisco Office dated 3/21/47 captioned "SS E. A. BRYAN, SS QUINAULT VICTO[illegible], PORT CHICAGO CASES, ADMIRALTY MATTER," with reference to BELLI charging Bureau Agents with harrassing his clients, it will be noted in that regard, after being interviewed in this matter by Agents this office and learning that Agents were not investigating him, he stated that he, BELLI, would withdraw his objections. It was during that interview of BELLI as set forth in that letter dated 3/21/47 that BELLI mentioned that he had received information that he was being investigated by a private investigator who was in the employ of the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company in connection with BELLI's ethics in handling a suit for a client against the Maryland Casualty Insurance Company. As file information does not reflect that it was substantiated, this matter is not being set forth in the blind memo.

b1

[redacted]

b7C

[redacted]

(2) Bureau (Encl.-4)
1 San Francisco
JBD:ekk
(3)

105-4986-1

REC-53

ENCLOSURE

50 APR 5 19[illegible]

CLASS. & EXT. BY SP2 TDP/ceac
REASON - FCIM II, 1.2 2.3
DATE OF REVIEW 6-17-90

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SF 105-4626

CONSULTING with CIA

[redacted]

The newspaper items mentioned in the memorandum were obtained through the library of the "San Francisco Examiner," a newspaper published at San Francisco. The items were clippings filed in envelopes; where the clipping was from the "San Francisco Examiner," it only bore a date stamp of the date of issue from which clipped; where the item had been clipped from another newspaper, it had been stamped with the name of the newspaper and the date of issue only.

Information with reference to the articles from "Life," "Time" and the "Saturday Evening Post," national magazines, were secured from the San Francisco City Library.

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March 18, 1960

MRS Melvin M. Belli
Attorney
San Francisco, California

Joey Belli (NEE TURNER) Joy Belli

The 1959 San Francisco City Directory reflects that Melvin M. (Joy T.) Belli resides at 1228 Montgomery, Apartment 8.

The 1958 San Francisco City Directory listed Belli as a lawyer with office at 240 Stockton Street and his wife was listed as Joy T. Belli and his residence was given as 1228 Montgomery, Apartment 8. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF

The current (September, 1959) San Francisco Telephone Directory lists Melvin M. Belli of the law firm of Belli, Ashe and Gerry as having offices at 722 Montgomery Street, San Francisco.

The 1960 Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory lists Melvin M. Belli, attorney, San Francisco, California, born 1907, admitted to Bar 1933, member of the American Bar Association and having graduated from the University of California with B.A. and LL.B. degrees.

CALIF ABELLI

The "San Francisco Examiner" newspaper, a newspaper published daily at San Francisco, issue of May 4, 1956, revealed Melvin Belli, attorney and writer, married on May 3, 1956, a former air line hostess, Joey Turner, in San Francisco. Melvin Belli, according to the article, formerly was married to Betty Ballantine and divorced in 1951, having four children. He married Toni Nichols, a former stenographer, and they were divorced in March, 1955. BELLI CALIF ATT MELVIN

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of May 1, 1959, had an item with reference to separate maintenance suits filed by Joy Belli against Melvin Belli and Melvin Belli against his wife, Joy Belli.

The "San Francisco Examiner" had a copy of a press release in its files dated January 9, 1959, at San Francisco issued by "Belli Seminar Foundation, 240 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California," for release January 12, 1959. According to the release, as part of a nation-wide series that has been widely acclaimed, the San Francisco Lawyers Club would sponsor a Belli Seminar Foundation lecture by internationally famed

CC-TO: Chicago Division 6-17-86 SP21 2
REC 4-13-60
105-47865-10
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San Francisco attorney Melvin M. Belli on January 17th at the St. Francis Hotel (San Francisco). The release stated Mr. Belli would discuss trial and substantive law, criminal and civil law, trial and tort trends, procedures, vior dire, and opening statements through final argument and appeal. According to the release, Belli would also discuss modern damages, medical problems and would show autopsy film. The release described "The Belli Seminar Foundation" as a charitable organization for the perpetuity of postgraduate legal education lectures and that Belli lectures were free to law students and medical students, doctors, judges, and professors. The release states further as follows:

"Belli, called 'The King of Torts,' was recently elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the International Academy of Trial lawyers at a meeting held at Coronado. He is past Dean of that organization and past President of the National Association of Claimants Compensation Attorneys.

"Particularly noted for being a pioneer in the use of demonstrative evidence, Belli is equally regarded as an author of numerous books, which includes 'Modern Trials,' 'Ready for the Plaintiff,' 'Modern Damages,' 'The Adequate Award' and 'Trial and Tort Trends.' His latest book, 'Life and Law in Japan,' deals with the Girard case which developed international legal and political interests."

"Time" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) issue of January 26, 1959, page 23, has an article about Melvin M. Belli under the caption "The Law" and subtitled "Plaintiff's Counsel." The article described Belli as a recognized, if not the revered, leader in the phenomenal field of U. S. law - personal injury. It is set forth that Belli's most noteworthy contribution to tort trials is the use of "demonstrative evidence." It set forth that Belli would take his skeleton named "Elmer" into the court room and show the jury by expert's testimony exactly where the plaintiff broke a bone. A photograph of Belli with the skeleton appeared with the article.

The "Time" article mentioned some of Belli's cases. Among those included were one for victims of the defective polio vaccine distributed by California Cutter Laboratories in 1955 and one for relatives of victims of the nation's worst air crash - the collision of two airplanes over Grand Canyon on June 30, 1956. It also mentioned that Belli had pending in Louisiana a case against two cigarette manufacturers and that it had been filed on behalf of a woman whose husband died of lung cancer. The last subheading of the article is captioned

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"Shyster or Savant." The article mentioned under this heading that most legal observers agree that for many years personal injuries were not adequately compensated in the courts. Many of these same observers now believe that Belli has led the trend too far in the opposite direction and, moreover, they shrink from Belli's techniques. The article quoted Belli as stating, "I am regarded as either shyster or savant. There is no middle road for me."

Belli was described in the "Time" article as fifty-one years of age, thrice married, twice divorced.

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of April 1, 1959, had an item listing Melvin Belli as representing Mae West in a $50,000 suit against a local night club (San Francisco) performer who billed herself as "the one and only 'Diamond Lil'."

The "Saturday Evening Post" (published by the Curtis Publishing Company, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) issue of April 11, 1959, contains an article captioned "Medicine's Legal Nightmare" by Milton Silverman, beginning on Page 13. In the first part of that article is set forth information about Melvin M. Belli, [redacted]-year-old San Francisco attorney, nationally known for his suits against doctors for medical malpractice.

b7C
b7D

[redacted] Las Vegas, Nevada, stated on April 23, 1959, that Mickey Cohen and two other individuals arrived in Las Vegas on April 23, 1959, from Los Angeles, California, by automobile. He stated that they were accompanied by an individual giving the name of "Mel" Belli, an attorney from San Francisco. They appeared at the Clark County Sheriff's Office where Cohen was required to register as an ex-felon. Mr. Belli stated at that time Cohen was in Las Vegas transacting some legal business and also to discuss a golf tournament to be held at Wilbur Clark's Desert Inn hotel golf course.

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of April 28, 1959, sets forth, under the caption "Belli Plans Plea for Stripper in Dope Case," information that San Francisco attorney Melvin Belli announced yesterday he would champion the cause of Las Vegas stripper Candy Barr, a comely girl friend of gambler Mickey Cohen, convicted of possession of marijuana. The item stated that Belli, reached by telephone in Las Vegas, said, "This is a gross miscarriage of justice. I have definitely taken up her case and we're going to the U. S. Supreme Court with it."

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The article stated that Cohen said he made the arrangements for Belli to defend Miss Barr. Cohen was quoted, "I made connections for Candy. I am not paying the bill. But I okayed the credit on it. She'll pay him when she's able."

According to the article, Belli insisted, "This has nothing to do with Cohen. I agreed to take her case after talking with her Friday and Saturday." The news item further set forth that Belli said, "She is caught right in the middle of a political deal. She doesn't use narcotics or sell it and she was deliberately framed by narcotics agents." According to the news article, a jury in Dallas, Texas, convicted Miss Barr of possession of marijuana last year. Her fifteen-year prison sentence was upheld in January by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals.

The "San Francisco Chronicle," a daily newspaper published at San Francisco, issue of July 6, 1959, captioned "Belli Asked Limit for Lawyers Fees." It stated that Melvin Belli, San Francisco attorney, had recommended to Governor Edmund G. Brown (Governor of California) for regulation of lawyers' fees in personal injury cases rather than creation of a California Automobile Accident Commission. Belli, a specialist in personal injury cases, was quoted, "Lawyers charge too much. Fees in personal injury cases such as automobile accidents should not go over forty per cent. I charge one-third. Some charge as much as fifty per cent."

"San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 24, 1959, contained an article captioned "Mickey Slated for Belli Seminar." The article is dated Miami, August 23rd, and stated that Mickey Cohen arrived in Miami on August 23rd and, after questioning by Miami detectives, he was permitted to go to a Miami Beach hotel where he was scheduled to address a trial seminar. The seminar was to be put on by attorney Melvin Belli, San Francisco trial lawyer, who defended Cohen last week on a charge of assaulting the chief of the Federal Narcotics Bureau in Los Angeles. The news item stated the seminar held in conjunction with the University of Miami Law School attracted attorneys across the nation. A seminar spokesman said the meeting was not connected with the giant American Bar Association convention starting there on Monday.

In the "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 25, 1959, it was set forth in an article that Melvin Belli, top trial lawyer from San Francisco, had introduced Mickey Cohen as Professor O'Brien at the American Bar Association convention in Miami Beach. The article stated that Cohen, as Professor O'Brien, lectured to the unsuspecting lawyers as a

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"professor" on income tax. The article stated the Association did not think it was funny and an Association spokesman said that it was obviously an attempt to use the American Bar Association for a private promotion, according to the news item. The news article quoted Belli as follows: "If they can't appreciate that part of the program, then the whole Bar Association has lost its sense of humor." Belli was further quoted that he was sorry Cohen had appeared before the convention.

The "San Francisco Examiner" on August 25, 1957, had an article captioned "Belli Sees Fair Trial for Girard." The item had a dateline of Tokyo, August 24th, and by-line of "By Melvin Belli, Special to the Examiner." The article was about the trial of the people of Japan against Specialist, Third Class, William S. Girard.

The "San Francisco Examiner" issue of August 26, 1957, had an article by Belli with reference to the Girard trial. This item has a dateline of Maebashi, Japan, August 26th.

Also, the "San Francisco Examiner" of September 10, 1957, had an article by Belli datelined Tokyo, September 9th, with reference to Japan's civil suit customs.

The "San Francisco Examiner" issues of October 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, 1959, contained items mentioning Melvin Belli as attorney for Beverly Aadland, teen-aged protege of the late Errol Flynn, movie actor who died at Vancouver, British Columbia, in October, 1959.

The "San Francisco Examiner" of November 17, 1957, had an article that a Yuba City (California) peach farmer bequeathed a $300,000 estate to three San Francisco lawyers with a provision that it be used to "educate people in the process of democracy." The article set forth that the estate was bequeathed to attorneys George Andersen, Norman Leonard and Richard Gladstein who had often defended members of the Communist Party. According to the article, attorney Melvin Belli declared he would contest the will on behalf of the dead man's widow, son and daughter.

The "San Francisco Examiner" of December 8, 1957, datelined Marysville (California) contained an article that attorney Melvin Belli had filed action for the son and daughter of a person by the name of Long. The news item set forth that according to the action Andersen induced the father "through fraud and under influence" to will all but $13,500 of the estate to Andersen and his law partners, Norman Leonard and Richard Gladstein.

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The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1956, had an item that attorney Melvin M. Belli was charged in the Municipal Court (San Francisco) with failing to pay $176.00 in overtime wages to two secretaries. The "San Francisco Chronicle" of October 20, 1956, had an article on the same matter. This article stated that a couple of former secretaries had hailed Melvin Belli into court on charges he failed to pay their overtime for the last two weeks they worked for him. The charge was described as a misdemeanor.

San Francisco, California, Police Department arrest record cards Nos. A28055 and A28056 reflect that Melvin Belli of 1228 Montgomery Street was arrested on the morning of September 19, 1956, on warrants issued on complaints of two individuals charging violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code. He was released immediately on $100.00 bond in each of the two cases. The records of Municipal Court, Department No. 11, San Francisco, reflects that Belli was acquitted of these charges in each case for violation of 216(a) of the Labor Code on December 12, 1956. The action numbers in the Municipal Court are 9327 and 9329.

The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of March 15, 1955, had an item captioned "Belli Joins Battle to Save Chessman's New Manuscript." The article read that attorney Melvin Belli catapulted himself into the Caryl Chessman case yesterday with charges that confiscation of the condemned convict-author's latest book is an attempt at thought control worse than the treatment of prisoners in the Dark Ages. The article stated that Belli, well-known trial lawyer had offered his services without fee to Chessman's Sacramento (California) counsel, Rosalie Asher, who accepted his association in the case. It was further set forth that attorney Asher was scheduled to appear before Judge Michael J. Roche of the Federal District Court at San Francisco to argue an injunction to prevent the destruction of Chessman's newest manuscript. It further mentioned that this was another phase of Chessman's six-year battle to escape San Quentin's gas chamber.

"San Francisco Examiner" of May 10, 1955, in an item captioned "Chessman's Book Suit" set forth that attorney Melvin Belli, on behalf of Miss Asher, had filed suit in Marin County (California) Superior Court, asking the court to order Warden Harley O. Teets, Director of Correction (California) Richard McGee and others to release Chessman's latest book, "Trial and Ordeal," to attorney Asher.

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"Life" magazine (published by Time, Inc., 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago 11, Illinois) in an issue of October 18, 1954 beginning on Page 71, contains an article by Robert Wallace captioned "The King of Torts." The subheading reads "Melvin Belli's court room props and his pyrotechnical oratory have reaped big awards for his clients and himself while revolutionizing the practice of personal injury law."

On March 9, 1951, the name of Melvin Belli, San Francisco, appeared along with other names on the letterhead of the Lawyers Against Test Oaths for the Bar, P.O. Box 2225, San Francisco 26, and 1614 North Argyle, LosAngeles 28, which appealed to members of the Bar to oppose California Senate Bill SB 1666, which would impose upon every member of the California Bar and every candidate for admission the Requirement that a test or loyalty oath be taken as a condition to practicing law.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of September 22, 1949, contains an article, "Bay Area Notables Protest Communist trial."

"San Francisco, Sept. 21

CALIF

"A group of prominent Bay Area residents, headed by Attorney Vincent Hallinan, protested theprosecution of the 12 Communist leaders to Alben Barkley during the vice president's visit here.....

"The group wrote Barkley that they wanted to see him 'for the purpose of protesting the actions of the United States government in prosecuting persons for the expressions of opinions.

"'We refer particularly to the prosecution of the Communist leaders in New York, and consider the action against them the sad reflection upon the level to which our American concepts of free speech have declined.

"'We desire to solicit your aid to combat procedures under which an existing system can employ the coercive forces of the government to preserve itself from criticism or change.'

"Members of the group which also sent a strongly worded protest against the trial to Attorney General J. Howard McGrath, included in addition to Hallinan: Mervin Belli, attorney;.....

The "Peoples World, formerly the "Daily People's World" is a West Coast Communist newspaper.

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The Communist Party, USA, has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "Daily People's World" newspaper issue of November 6, 1941, page 1, columns 2, 3 and 4, contained an article entitled "Bay Area Notables Greet Soviet People on Nov. 7."

"San Francisco, Nov. 5

"Prominent Northern Californians are sending greetings to the people of the Soviet Union on November 7, the Russians' independence Day, in support of the Red Army's struggle against Nazi Germany, today announced the Russian American Society to Aid USSR and Great Britain to Defeat Hitler Fascism.

"Religious leaders, city officials, educators, liberals and progressives were circulated with the following message:

"'We Americans admire your courage and determination in your fight against Hitlerism.

"'On November 7, your Independence Day, we wish to convey to you our message of greetings and deep conviction that your heroic struggle will end in final victory over the dark forces of fascism.'"

Signing the message of greetings, with modifications in some instances, were: ".....Melvin M. Belli, attorney...."

The Russian American Society, Inc., has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

The "San Francisco Chronicle" issue of October 9, 1939, contained an article captioned "Belli named to U. S. Bar Rights Committee." In this article it is set forth that Melvin Belli, San Francisco attorney, had been appointed to the Committee on the Bill of Rights of the Junior Bar Conference of the American Bar Association. The Committee, according to the article, would concern itself with a comparative survey of the Bill of Rights as appears in the basic law of the states.

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OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Malone

DATE: 8/9/60

FROM : H. L. Edwards

SUBJECT: MELVIN M. BELLI
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SAN FRANCISCO

b7C [redacted] of the Training Section received in the mail a circular indicating that Melvin M. Belli of San Francisco is scheduling the 10th Annual Belli Seminar at Washington, D. C., Sunday, August 28, 1960, from 8:30 a. m. to 11:00 p. m. at the Presidential Arms. This is the day before the opening of the American Bar Association's 83rd Annual Meeting. A copy of this circular is attached and indicates that this seminar will emphasize medical specialties not heretofore discussed at prior forensic medicine and medico-legal seminars. On the law side, the seminar will consider the various agencies and courts and specialized practices that every lawyer should know about.

b7C Belli is, of course, well known as being a notorious publicity seeker. [redacted] It will be recalled that at the Annual ABA Meeting, 1959, at Miami Beach, Belli embarrassed the ABA by bringing Mickey Cohen and setting up a seminar to run concurrently with the ABA Meeting and some of the newspapers erroneously reported that Belli was a part of the ABA Convention. Of course the ABA promptly indicated he had no connection whatsoever.

b7C b7D [redacted] has told me in the past that he has been trying in every way possible to "make a case" which would justify ousting Belli from the ABA for unethical practices although Belli is apparently smart enough to stay within the ethical rules.

On 8/4/60 while spending some time in Washington with b7C b7D [redacted] I informed him of the proposed Belli Seminar. This was complete news to [redacted] but he was very anxious to get it because he said he will now alert the Public Relations Staff at the ABA Center so that when they have their preliminary briefing of the press prior to the forthcoming Annual Meeting, they will be able to clarify in advance the fact that Belli has no connection in his seminar with the ABA Meeting.

ACTION:

Information.

Enclosure

HLE:eiw

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62 AUG 23 1960

ENCLOSURE

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